

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] Priority is claimed to German Patent Application No. DE 102 32 286.4, filed on ~~18~~ 16 July 2003, the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] An object of the present invention is to provide a coupling of this type having a long lifespan. A further or alternate object of the present invention is to provide a coupling of this type that is able to transmit substantially large radial loads using the same or reduced installation space. ~~\_\_\_\_\_The~~ The present invention provides a coupling for connecting a driving machine part and a driven machine part, e.g., shafts, wheel hubs or the like, comprising an intermediate shaft and articulated lever couplings provided at the ends of the intermediate shaft. Each coupling has at least three identical articulated levers, engaging via elastic joints situated at their ends with the intermediate shaft and with the adjacent machine part which is to be connected. The axes (21) of the elastic joints (10) of each articulated lever (9) are perpendicular to an axial plane (22, 23) which is parallel to the articulated levers (9) and passes through the axis (8) of the intermediate shaft (4) and the axes (6, 7) of the machine parts (2, 3) that are to be connected.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Coupling 1 shown in a front view in Figure 1 connects ~~two shaft ends 2 and 3~~ a shaft end 2 of a driving machine part with a shaft end 3 of a driven machine part. The shaft ends 2 and 3 each represents portions of a shaft or wheel hub of the driving machine part or driven machine part, only shaft end 2 being visible in the front view. Articulated lever couplings 5 are mounted in a star pattern around axes 6 and 7 of shaft ends 2 and 3 which are to be joined and axis 8 of intermediate shaft 4. Four articulated levers 9 of the same design are provided, engage with bearing journals 11 of connecting flange 12 of intermediate shaft 4 via joints 10 provided at their ends and with bearing journals 13 of connecting flange 14 of shaft end 2. Bearing journals 11 and 13 are integrally joined to claws 15 and 16 on connecting flanges 12 and 14. Bearing journals 11 and 13 are designed in a conical shape having a non-blocking conical seating. All joints 10 are equipped with cylindrical bearings 17. Articulated levers 9 have lugs 18 protruding

on their outer ends via which they are held by bolts 19 on flanges 12, 14. This is also additional protection in the event one of elastomer layers 20 is damaged.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Axes 21 of elastic joints 10 of each articulated lever 9 are aligned perpendicularly to axial planes 22 and 23, which pass through axis 8 of intermediate shaft 4 and axes 6 and 7 of shaft ends 2 and 3. Axial planes 22 and 23 also run ~~to be joined and running~~ parallel to respective ones of articulated levers 9. Axes 21 of joints 10 of each articulated lever 9 are parallel.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Figure 4 shows an embodiment of coupling [[1]] 1' in which articulated lever coupling 5 has six articulated levers 9 having particular joints 10. One of the joints is shown as a spherical bearing 10'. In this case, each connecting flange is provided with three claws 35.